SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — April 9, 1973

No 193

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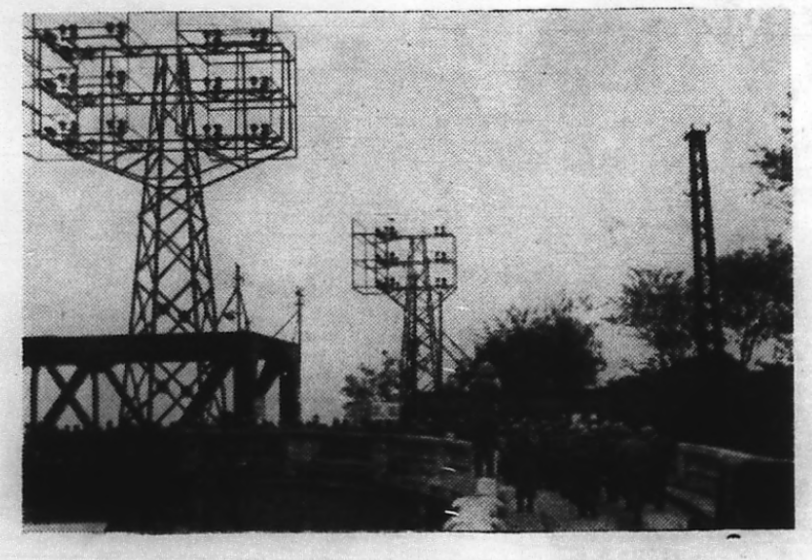
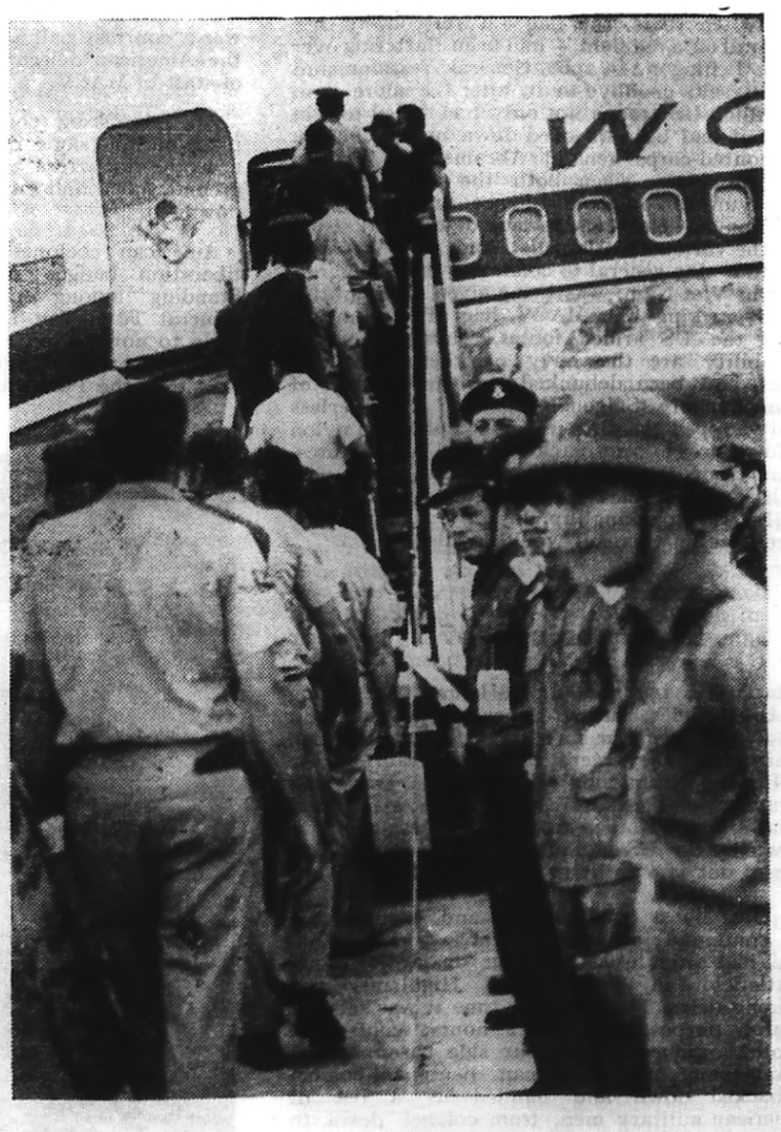
CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

VIET NAM:
ONE WAY-OUT FOR TWO AGGRESSORS

- **Feb. 6, 1859**: *Da Nang mountains echoed the first reports of the French Cochinchina Fleet's guns in Viet Nam*
- **Oct. 9, 1954**: *the last soldiers of the French Expeditionary Corps left Hanoi, marking an end to the 95-year French colonialist domination*
- **March 8, 1965**: *Da Nang sand bore the footprints of the first US Marines landing on Viet Nam*
- **March 28 and 29, 1973**: *the last GIs left Saigon Tan Son Nhut airport*





SAIGON

historic March 1973

IT is mid-March. There is bright sunshine in Saigon and the trees lining Cong Ly avenue are in full bloom. A strong breeze blows in from the sea and from the ricefields of the Mekong delta. The attention of the Saigon population is being focused on a series of memorable events, while the whole world is watching. The hour for Viet Nam has struck, in a solemn and calm atmosphere.

Furled flags

At noon on March 15, at the headquarters of the US Army in Viet Nam, known as USARV, in the northeastern part of the Tan Son Nhut air-base, the command flag — a gold sword on a blue field — was being lowered, rolled up and sent home. According to the Paris Agreement, the presence of American troops in Viet Nam was to be ended. American military activities were to be brought to an official end that afternoon. The ceremony lasted only 20 minutes, in the presence of 300 American officers. No military parade, no medal pinning, no speech. After decades of a gloomy, setback-ridden war, the activities of the US troops could only be ended in that tepid atmosphere. The honour guard numbered no more than 20; the brass band, borrowed from the Saigon air force, played a tearful tune which called to mind the *Nam Ai* of feudal times. Brigadier Roseborough gloomily handed the furled flag to a staff-sergeant. The army chaplain officiated, murmuring something like words of repentance: "May God forgive us the mistakes we have committed, which have led to this conclusion."

On the afternoon of the 15th, at the headquarters of MACV, the supreme command of the American ground, naval and air forces, and in fact of the Saigon army as well, the flag was also taken down. For nearly ten years, this flag — a white sword and a yellow wall on a red field — had been fluttering over the Asian Pentagon. In 1968, General Westmoreland sorrowfully said goodbye to it, after the more than half a million US troops not only had failed to win victory but had been knocked down by big chunks. The armoured-corps general Abrams also had to swallow his pride, when both the wall and the sword — symbols of good offence and defence — became ironical emblems in face of the real situation on the various battlefields. And now, Weyand, the last four-star general to command the US aggressive war in Viet Nam, was being given the doubtful honour of striking the MACV flag. The immense power of the US armed forces, whose fire-power and mobility are the envy of other imperialist countries, had been debunked. In the presence of three melancholy Saigon generals, a cheerless Weyand wrapped the flag in a piece of white nylon cloth, for it to be sent back to the United States. American troop strength had dropped to 5,000, one-hundredth of the early 1968 figure. Even those 5,000 GIs were packing up, for in 12 days' time their presence on this soil would be illegal.

In a Boeing 707

On March 14, 1973, at 09 : 38 hours, two shining black U.21 planes bearing orange circles on their wings took off from the military sector of Tan Son Nhut air-base. They were taking a team of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) to Nha Trang and Da Nang for on-the-spot inspection of withdrawal by US and South Korean troops. This was a major backdown by the US side in face of the persevering struggle of our two military delegations.

The U.21 is a small, fast and comfortable 5-seat command aircraft, which Abrams and Weyand had often used for their inspection tours of battlefields in the Central Highlands and the Mekong delta. For the first time it was serving a peaceful purpose. At 16:42 hours, confronted with solid arguments from our side based on the Paris Agreement, the American lieutenant-colonel again backed down and handed us a list of 165 American military men, from colonel down to private, who were about to board a plane home. At 16:54 hours, the American side had to agree to the JMC team boarding the Boeing 707 to inspect the passengers and their luggage. Previously, on an occasion involving South Korean troops, it had stubbornly insisted that the team should carry out its checking operation on the ground only. American officers courteously answered questions put by the Vietnamese side. At 17 : 12 hours, the plane took off. Standing on the Da Nang airfield, we remembered this observation by a diplomat in Saigon: "The American troops are to withdraw entirely. The delegations of the DRVN and the PRG have come to Saigon. These two facts alone are sufficient evidence of the victory of the Vietnamese people." The aggressive troops have been compelled to leave our country, under the control and supervision of us, the victors. Such checking operations are to continue until the 27th of March, when an end is brought to the presence of American troops all over Viet Nam.

In the Asian Pentagon

17 : 28 hours on the 16th of March. A motorcade of nine shining black sedans passed the Tan Son Nhut civilian airport, then turned right and headed for the MACV headquarters. This used to be a forbidden area, off-limits even to Saigon presidents, prime ministers and army generals.

Two rows of American military police stood at attention from the gate to the white building housing MACV headquarters, in the midst of green lawns. General Tran Van Tra and six other officers in PLAF uniform, their faces serious yet cheerful, alighted from their cars amidst the blinding flashes triggered by photographers and cameramen. Brigadier Le Quang Hoa and six other DRVN officers, wearing golden badges showing their military ranks, also entered the building. They were welcomed by a crowd of American generals and colonels, who showed them into the reception room. This was a courtesy call at the invitation of the head of the American delegation, who used to be the chief-of-staff of MACV.

An interesting coincidence: the reception took place on the same day the command flags at US army headquarters and especially at the HQ of US ground, naval and air forces in Viet Nam were taken down.

American colonels looked attentively at the liberation badges: red and blue, with a gold star. Standing among American and Saigon officers, General Tran Van Tra said in a cheerful voice: "Up to now we have resolutely fought for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people; now that the Paris Agreement has been signed, we are resolved to maintain peace. This MACV headquarters is to be handed over to the Vietnamese. Together with all national forces, we will strive to have all bases turned into the genuine property of our beloved people."

What joy to hear the just voice of our people expressed in the proud words of General Tran Van Tra, which resounded in the Asian Pentagon. This general of the heroic liberation forces was born to a poor family of revolutionary Quang Ngai, became a railway worker in Saigon in 1939, was jailed in Saigon in 1944-45. The path over which he has travelled is also the path followed by countless Vietnamese patriots who have fought courageously and intelligently and overcome numerous difficulties and hardships in their struggle for the country's independence, freedom and unity, and the people's happiness. We have come to Saigon; we have entered the HQ of MACV, the den in which so many ambitious strategic plans were hatched. These plans have all gone bankrupt and we are now coming as victors. A Polish friend has told us: "Your march into MACV began in early spring of the year Mau Than (1968) and took on momentum with the strategic offensives of 1972, the firm momentum of victory."

The stars

March 15. Night fell. At 18 : 30 hours, before the villas owned by the millionaire Hui Bon Hoa on Ly Thai To avenue, hundreds of cars were parked under the rows of flame-trees. A reception was held by Ambassador Gauvin, head of the Canadian delegation to the International Commission, on the occasion of the visit to Saigon of the Canadian Foreign Minister. Foreign correspondents crowded around the military delegations of the DRVN and the PRG, who had just arrived. For 90 minutes, the foreign pressmen surrounded Comrades Tran Van Tra and Le Quang Hoa. One of them told one of our delegates: "In all receptions in Saigon, Mr Bunker used to be surrounded by pressmen, for he was the number one VIP. But his evening, he looked quite lonely over there."

And when 50 foreign correspondents came to a press conference in camp David on the 17th of March, one of them merrily told us that at the Canadian reception, General Tran Van Tra and Brigadier Le Quang Hoa were "the stars". He said: "They were very candid and outspoken. We journalists like to meet them. The people on the other side don't like the press. They avoid us, even threaten us. Journalists are hard-to-please people; yet we are fully satisfied by our meetings with you." Those men concerned about truth have been impressed by the truth told them by people with justice and honesty on their side.

March in Saigon will go down in history as a memorable month: it sees the departure of the last American troops and marks the beginning of a new phase of struggle. In the afternoon, swarms of glossy black swallows circle in the blue sky of Saigon over Tan Son Nhut. They herald the coming of spring, the spring of victory for a heroic and indomitable people. This spring sees the victorious conclusion of a stage and opens up a new one with infinitely bright prospects. Black swallows, with gleams of sunshine in their glossy plumage, are shooting up in the azure sky.

THANH TIN

Officers of the DRVN and the RSVN together with the International Team boarding a plane to supervise the withdrawing GIs

Population in the liberated area acclaiming Peace and demanding serious application of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam

The PRG military delegation to Two-Party JMC

Following is the name list of the Military Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the Central Two-Party Joint Military Commission :

1 — Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra, Head of the delegation.

2 — Major-General Hoang Anh Tuan, Deputy-head.

3 — Colonel Vo Dong Giang, Deputy-head.

4 — Colonel Le Thanh Khiet, Deputy-head.

5 — Colonel Nguyen Van Si, member.

6 — First Lieutenant-Colonel Nguyen Van Hoan, member.

7 — First Lieutenant-Colonel Duong Dinh Thao, member.

8 — First Lieutenant-Colonel Nguyen Van Tu, member.

42 DISTRICTS AND TOWNSHIPS AWARDED THE "BRASS WALL" ORDER

President Huynh Tan Phat has on behalf of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, signed a decision confering the "Brass Wall" Order on 42 districts and townships with outstanding achievements especially during the 1972 general offensives and uprisings.

16 districts decorated with the "Brass Wall" Order, Second Class

They are : Trieu Phong and Gio Linh districts (Quang Tri) Phong Dien and Huong Thuy (Thua Thien), town district X. in Da Nang city, Que Son district (Quang Nam) Duc Pho (Quang Ngai), Hoai Nhon (Binh Dinh), District 80 (Kontum), Trang Bang (Tay Ninh), Northern Cai Lay and Southern Cai Lay (My Tho), Southern Mo Cay (Ben Tre), Can Long (Tra Vinh), Vung Liem (Vinh Long) and Long My (Can Tho).

26 districts and townships honoured with the "Brass Wall" Order, Third Class

They are: Hai Lang and Cam Lo districts Quang Tri), District N. and Phu Loc (Thua Thien), Hoa Vang (Quang Da), Son Tinh (Quang Ngai), Hoai An (Binh Dinh), District 5 (Gia Lai), Tuy Hoa (Phu Yen), District 5 (Darlac), the Western Khanh Hoa, Nam Son (Southern Trung Bo), Northern Cu Chi (Northern Gia Dinh), Go Dau (Tay Ninh), Long Dat (Ba Ria) Southern Chau Thanh and Cai Be (My Tho), Northern Mo Cay, Giong Trom and Thanh Phu (Ben Tre), My An (Kien Phong), Thoi Binh (Ca Mau), the townships X. and K. in Southern Trung Bo, Hem Thuan and Hong Van districks.

Two months of implementation of Paris Agreement on Viet Nam

THE Paris Agreement on Viet Nam came into effect two months ago. The political and juridical value of the Agreement was solemnly recognized by the International Conference on Viet Nam and its Act.

The RSVN PRG and the DRVN Governments have seriously implemented the Agreement

Since the signing of the Paris Agreement, the RSVN PRG and the DRVN Governments have seriously and strictly implemented all provisions of the Agreement and its Protocols. Right after the signing of the Agreement, the Command of the South Viet Nam Liberation People's Armed Forces ordered all the liberation people's armed forces to cease fire on all South Viet Nam battlefields. The People's Liberation Armed Forces have stopped all offensives and stayed in place. The RSVN PRG and the DRVN Governments have carried out seriously and most satisfactorily the return of the captured military and civilian personnel. Within 60 days the DRVN Government returned to the US government four batches totaling 459 American military personnel and foreign civilians captured in North Viet Nam. Besides, it returned to the Saigon administration a pilot captured in North Viet Nam. During the same period, the RSVN PRG returned to the US government 127 US military personnel and foreign civilians and to the Saigon administration 5,433 captured military personnel.

The millitary delegations of the RSVN PRG and the DRVN Governments have speedily deployed their organizations and activities in the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, closely co-operated with the International Commission of Control and Supervision and created all facilities for the activities of these organizations, though the United States and the Saigon administration have put every obstacle to prevent their normal activities.

Prompted by its desire to see early realization of the policy of reconciliation and national concord, the RSVN PRG has promptly appointed its delegation to the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties to settle the internal affairs of South Viet Nam.

In the areas controlled by the RSVN PRG, all democratic freedoms have been strictly observed and have brought about the broad solidarity of the people.

Violations of the Agreement committed by the US and the Saigon administration

The US side has also implemented a number of the provisions on ending hostilities and troop withdrawal. The US has halted its military activities in South Viet Nam and withdrawn its troops and the troops of its allies from South Viet Nam. The US has stopped its military actions against the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, begun sweeping the mines it had dropped into the territorial waters and waterways of the DRVN. For its part, the Saigon administration has only implemented the provision concerning the return of military personnel of the PRG.

On the other hand, the US and the Saigon administration have violated in a deliberate and very serious manner the fundamental and most urgent provisions of the Agreement.

So far since the signing of the Agreement, the Saigon administration has, with US connivance and support, refused to observe the ceasefire. It still continues and steps up military actions seriously violating the ceasefire order. It mobilized almost all its forces, including all the regular units, civil guards, militia and police in execution of its "land grabbing" plan throughout Viet Nam just after the ceasefire came into force.

According to incomplete figures, from January 28 to March 28, 1973, the Saigon administration committed 67,762 violations, including 19,770 land-grabbing operations against the areas controlled by the PRG, 23,542 shellings and 3,375 air bombardments. On the ground, it has launched 19,720 battalion or company sized operations and 42 regiment-sized operations.

More serious still, it has opened 8 division-sized operations against the liberated zone south of Cua Viet (Quang Tri province), Tay Dai Loc, Duy Xuyen, Go Noi, Dien Ban (Quang Da province,) Sa Huynh (Quang Ngai province), Chu Thoi, Southern Buon Ho (Central Highlands) Rach Bap (Thu Dau Mot province), Cai Lay—Cai Be (My Tho province) and Mong My (Chuong Thien province).

A long with its nibbling operations, the Saigon administration has also mobilized the civil-guards and police and a big force of the regular army to launch 21,075 raids to arrest, terrorize and murder the people and herd them into concentration camps and "strategic hamlets" in furtherance of its "pacification" plan. The Saigon administration has illegally set up many more posts and intensified its fascist rule to stamp out all democratic liberties of the people, including the freedom of movement and residence, and to curb the movement in favour of peace, democracy and national concord.

The Saigon administration has also violated the provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol concerning the return of the military personnel of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government captured in the war. In every drive, it sought all ways and means to mix up the detainees, forget dossiers of the prisoners, organized the so-called produced "ralliement" of prisoners or even disposed of many of them. It also tries to conceal the detainees in order not to return all of them to the PRG. Furthermore, the Saigon administration has brazenly organized armed assaults in the places chosen by the PRG for the return of detainees such as Tam Ky (Quang Nam) and Duc Pho (Quang Ngai). Of particular gravity is the fact that up to this day the Saigon administration has not returned any of the civilian personnel under its detention.

At present, the Saigon administration is imprisoning and torturing tens of thousands of patriots in over 1,000 known or unknown prisons. It has secretly murdered, barbarously repressed and massacred many patriots and peace advocates or illegally brought them to trial en masse, and otherwise turned them into common-law prisoners in order to realize its vicious scheme.

The Saigon administration has put up innumerable obstacles to the deployment of the organizations and activities of the Four-Party JMC, and consequently prevented from carrying out effective activities the International Commission of Control and Surpervision. It has even used violence against officiers and military personnel of the DRVN Government in Ban Me Thuot, Hue, Da Nang, Duc Pho, etc., laid ambushes at the places for the reception of the military delegations of the PRG in Da Lat and Phan Thiet, causing a number of deaths. The Saigon administration has also brazenly hindered the movement of the officers of the ICCS, and even threatened them.

The US, for its part, has many times violated the Agreement or failed to implement it fully. The US still continues its military involvement in South Viet Nam under various forms.

The troops of the US and its allies have actually withdrawn from South Viet Nam but without weapons and war means, and their military bases in South Viet Nam have not been dismantled. The US has illegally shipped to South Viet Nam weapons and war means for the Saigon army, and secretly left in South Viet Nam thousands of its military personnel in the guise of civilian personnel to continue commanding the Saigon army.

The US has intentionally delayed and prolonged the mine-clearing operation in North Viet Nam which has so far fielded very meagre results. According to its own information, since March 6, 1973, the US has exploded only three mines among the two thousand mines it had dropped in the territorial waters, and waterways of the DRVN. Moreover, US planes have made reconnaissance flights over Thanh Hoa, Quang Binh and Vinh Linh in the territory of the DRVN.

In face of the increasing acts of provocation and violation of the cease-fire Agreement by the Saigon troops, the South Viet Nam People's Armed Forces, however, have observed great restraint. But the Saigon army has not ceased to escalate its acts of violations. To defend the liberated zone, and the life and property of the people, the South Viet Nam People's Armed Forces have dealt due return blows, smashing all the nibbling operations of the Saigon administration. According to incomplete figures, the PLAF have wiped out 45,500 adversaries and brought to failure their "land grabbing" plan.

Also during the past two months, 50,000 Saigon officers and soldiers have deserted.

Last batch of captured American personnel returned

★ by the PRG

On March 27 at Gia Lam airport, the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN, empowered by the Provisional Revolutionary Government, handed over to the US side the last 32 Americans who had been captured in South Viet Nam and kept in North Viet Nam at the request of the PRG.

This is the fourth and last batch of American military personnel and foreign civilians captured in South Viet Nam and returned to the US side under the Paris Agreement. In the three previous drives, the PRG had returned to the US side 95 personnel including a Canadian and two nationals of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The last returnees included 25 armymen among them two majors and six captains, and seven civilians. The majority of them were captured in the northern provinces of South Viet Nam in the period from 1969 to 1972. The last to enter the detention camp was Lieutenant Commander Philip Allen Kientzler who became a captive on January 26, 1973, just two days before the ceasefire took effect. Many of them were wounded, some seriously, at the time of their capture. But thanks to good medical care, all the wounded had completely recovered. Daniel Henry Hefel, John William Parsels and Tom Yoshihisa Kobashigowa, were shot down over a jungle area and, because of serious wounds, were in a state of unconsciousness when the People's Liberation Forces found them. It took the captors eight days to get them to the nearest medical station. Only when they came to did they realize that they had been taken prisoner.

The seven American civilian personnel returned here today were working for the US armed forces at the time of their capture. Robert Fleck Olsen, for instance, was a radioman at the Phu Bai military base in Thua Thien province when he was captured on February 2, 1968.

The hand-over conducted in the presence of a team of the International Commission of Control and Supervision and a team of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission was acknowledged by the US representative, Colonel James R. Dennett as conforming with what had been agreed upon.

In the same day, the Provisional Revolutionary Government returns to the US side a South Korean militaryman in Duc Pho, Quang Ngai province, South Viet Nam.

★ by the DRVN Government

ON March 29, the DRVN Government completed the return to the United States of all the American military personnel captured in North Viet Nam, thus fulfilling its commitment in conformity with Article 8 (a) of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

With the inclusion of the 40 men returned yesterday afternoon, this fourth and last batch comprised 107 Americans. 43 of them, including 33 B.52 flyers and 2 F.111 pilots, became captives during the 12-day blitz last December. The last man brought to the prison camp, and also the last to board the last C.141, was Alfred Howard Agnew, lieutenant commander, USN, shot down in Ha Tay province on Dec. 28, 1972.

So, all the 450 Americans captured in North Viet Nam have been returned to the US. There was, in addition, a Saigon pilot, downed over Quang Binh province on May 14, 1966, who has been delivered to the Saigon administration through the medium of the RSVN PRG.

In the morning, the press, including a group of nearly 30 foreign journalists and TV-men just arriving on a chartered plane, was invited by the authorities to join the ICCS and the JMC in a visit to the last detention area. The camp, the third of its kind ever opened to public scrutiny, was a large, shady place complete with a basket-ball and volley-ball ground and a cinema hall, and located at one of the main gates of the city. There one could see how well the detainees were treated. The last American captives, still in their typical striped pyjamas, were in very good shape, though one-third had been wounded at their capture. Their personal belongings—reading materials and other gifts from home—were neatly arranged on their cots.

The airport was thronged with thousands of people who, despite the sweltering heat, waited patiently to see that memorable moment. And, when the last American detainee stepped out, cameras were zoomed on him from all sides, and a prolonged murmur of excitement rippled through the crowd.

The proceedings, to quote the final statement of the Four-Party JMC, were conducted smoothly and in every point in conformity with the Paris Agreement. The representatives of the ICCS also voiced their satisfaction at the result of the hand-over.

Nevertheless, as was pointed out to the press by a spokesman for the DRVN authorities, the return of captured US military personnel and foreign civilians would have been completed much earlier, on March 25 or three days ahead of the deadline had not been for difficulties created by the US side.

★ by the Lao Patriotic Forces

On March, 28, at Gia Lam airport in Hanoi the Lao patriotic forces returned to the US government 7 military personnel and 2 civilians captured on Laos's territory during the war.

As explained to the press by a spokesman for the Representation of the Lao Patriotic Front to the DRVN, this was done in compliance with a request of the US, and was meant to show the Lao patriotic forces' humanitarianism and their good will in the implementation of the Vientiane Peace Agreement.

Simultaneous with the proceedings at the LPF Representation in Hanoi, another captive of the Lao patriotic forces — a Canadian civilian — was handed over to the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Canada in the Philippines.

The return and reception of the American personnel — 2 field officers, 5 company officers and 2 civilians — was made after Lt. Col. Thoong Sing, head of the delegation of the Lao Patriotic Forces, and Lt. Col. Lawrence Robson of the USAF, had reached agreement on procedural matters.

Thanks to good treatment, the returned captives were all in good health.

One more American militaryman returned

In strict implemention of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and in line with the human policy of the PRG, on April 1, 1973, the People's Revolutionary Committee of Tra Vinh has returned to the US an additional American military captured and detained by the revolutionary authority of Tra Vinh province. The return has been carried out in Tra Vinh in presence of the ICCS and the Joint Military Commission delegates.

THE Paris Agreement on Viet Nam is a very great victory of the most glorious war of resistance in the Vietnamese nation's history of struggle against foreign invasion, an epoch-making victory of the forces of socialism, national independence, democracy and peace, and of the freedom- and justice-loving people around the world.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have scrupulously implemented all the provisions of the Agreement, and have put up a resolute struggle to demand that the other side do the same, with a view to ensuring an effective ceasefire, restoring and consolidating peace, and ensuring the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.

The implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has lasted 60 days. The US government has had to stop the war in both South and North Viet Nam, to withdraw from South Viet Nam all American troops and those of the other foreign countries allied to the United States and to cease completely its direct armed aggression against Viet Nam. For the first time in over one hundred years there are no invading troops on Vietnamese soil. This is a very important victory in the Vietnamese nation's glorious history of struggle for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland.

Nearly 20 years ago, the US government, seriously misjudging the Vietnamese people's national spirit and the trend of the world revolution, sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreement on Viet Nam, and intervened in the internal affairs of Viet Nam in an attempt to establish the US neocolonialist rule in South Viet Nam. This mistake led the United States into a costly war in terms of human lives and material resources, a war which has turned out to be the longest and the most difficult one in American history. The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has opened for the United States a way out of this war.

However, while being compelled to pull out of Viet Nam, the US government is not yet willing to strictly end its military involvement and its intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam and to give up its scheme of maintaining and consolidating the Saigon administration, its instrument for implementing neocolonialism. It is for this reason that the US government and the Saigon administration have brazenly and systematically violated many essential provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

With the US government's support, the Saigon administration, disregarding the provisions on the ceasefire, has launched tens of thousands of encroaching operations against the areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. In many places in South Viet Nam, the shooting has not ended, the bloodshed has not stopped and devastation continue to be daily occurrences. Two months after the stipulated date for its entry into force, the ceasefire is not yet effective in South Viet Nam. This is an extremely grave situation which directly threatens peace in South Viet Nam.

The Saigon administration, brazenly sabotaging the provisions on democratic liberties, has carried out tens of thousands of police and "pacification" operations aimed at terrorizing and repressing the South Vietnamese people, and which are in no way different in scale and atrocity from wartime operations. It has carried out intensive massacres and arrests, and has continued to herd tens of thousand of people into concentration camps. It has enacted fascist laws to increase coercion against the South Vietnamese people. In the areas under its control, the population has continued to be denied the minimun freedoms such as those of movement, of residence, of work, of the press, of gathering...

In its obstination, the Saigon administration has failed to return the civilian personnel arrested and detained by it to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, in violation of Article 8 (c) of the

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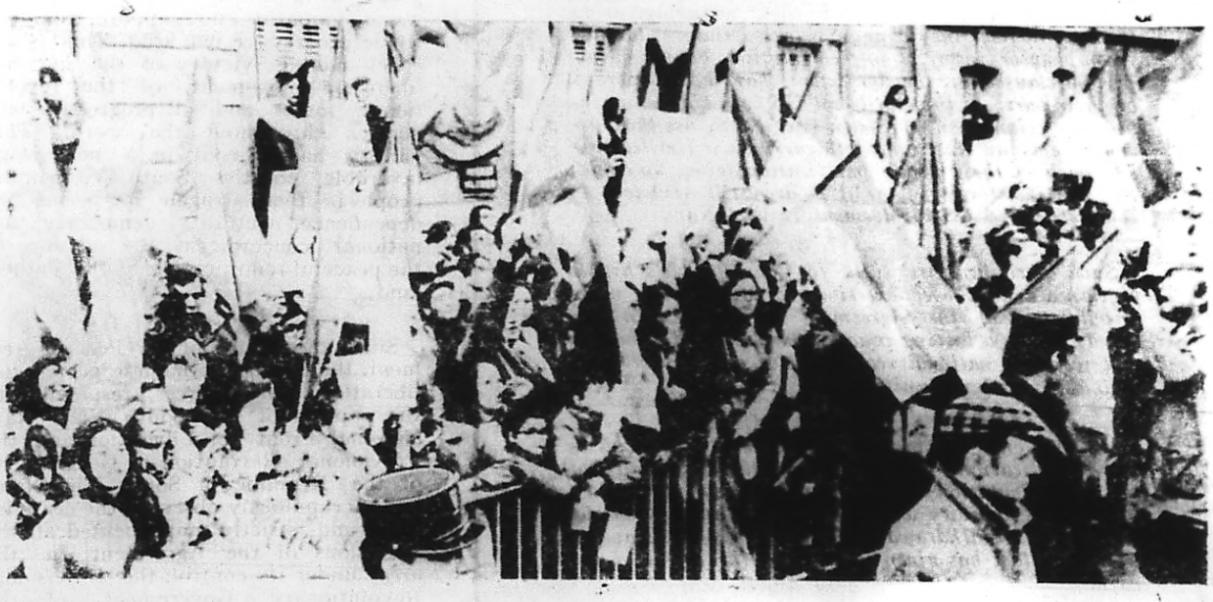
On the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam

(STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM)

Agreement and of the commitment of the US government. 60 days after the signing of the Agreement, hundreds of thousands of political prisoners have not yet been allowed to return to their families, and are still languishing in shackles and under tortures in the prisons of South Viet Nam. Many of them have been taken to unknown places or secretly killed. This state of affairs has caused a deep shock to the conscience of progressive mankind. Many international organizations, celebrated personalities, and broad segments of world public opinion have voiced their strong indignation and demanded that the Saigon administration immediately set free all the persons it is detaining.

Meanwhile, the US government has left behind in South Viet Nam over ten thousand military personnel disguised as civilian advisers, and has illegally brought weapons, munitions and war materials in increased quantities into South Viet Nam. With regard to North Viet Nam, it has tried to delay and prolong the mine-clearing operations in the territorial waters, ports, harbours and rivers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, thus prolonging in fact the blockade of its territorial waters. Moreover, the US government has stepped up the war in Cambodia, continued the bombing of Laos, increased the US military forces in Thailand, and maintained a big air and naval force in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, thus directly menacing the peace and security of Viet Nam, Indochina and Southeast Asia. To cover up its own violations, the US government has slanderously accused the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam of "violating the Agreement," and it has uttered threats against the Vietnamese people.



Vietnamese residents in Paris acclaiming the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam strongly denounces the above-mentioned serious violations of the provisions concerning the ceasefire as well as of other provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, which have been committed by the US government and the Saigon administration, and which seriously jeopardize peace in South Viet Nam. The US government and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their violations.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam firmly demands that the US government and the Saigon administration immediately stop all violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, strictly respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Agreement and of the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam. The Saigon administration must scrupulously implement the provisions concerning the ceasefire, immediately stop the encroaching operations and bombardments against the areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, immediately end the "pacification" operations aimed at terrorizing and coercing the South Vietnamese people, ensure democratic freedoms to the latter, first and foremost, freedom of movement, freedom to return and settle in their native places, and immediately return all captured and detained civilian personnel. The US government must strictly end its military involvement and its intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam; it must honour its responsibility to prod the Saigon administration to strictly respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The US government must scrupulously carry out its obligations with regard to the clearing of mines in the territorial waters, ports, harbours and rivers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The unswerving position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and of the Provisional Revolutionary government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as well, is to scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and to demand that the other side do the same. It is only if the US government draws the lessons of the past, gives up the policies that led to war, and scrupulously implements the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, that it is possible to secure a stable peace in Viet Nam and contribute to the preservation of lasting peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia. Only in this way can an era of reconciliation be ushered in between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, as well as between the United States and all nations of Indochina, and conditions created for establishing a new relationship between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, as provided for in the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

Countrymen and fighters throughout the country!

Through a tenacious and heroic struggle, our people have won a great victory with the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and gained a very important success in its implementation. The struggle for the implementation of the Paris Agreement is still hard and complex, but victory will certainly belong to the Vietnamese people. Our people's cause is just. We have the strength of our national unity, we have traditions of patriotism, revolutionary heroism, moreover we have the Paris Agreement and the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam as a political and juridical basis guaranteeing our people's fundamental national rights and the right of our Southern countrymen to self-determination. In addition, we enjoy strong sympathy and support from the fraternal socialist countries and the peace- and justice-loving people around the world.

Countrymen and fighters throughout the country, enhance your vigilance, be united with one mind, stand ready to defeat all schemes and acts of the forces of reaction and war to sabotage the Agreement and undermine peace, thereby ensuring the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. No brutal force, no insolent threat, no perfidious trick can shake the Vietnamese people's iron-like resolve to fight for the peace, independence and freedom of the Fatherland.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam calls on all countrymen and fighters throughout the country to strive hard to carry out the Testament of the venerated President Ho Chi Minh, and to march forward eagerly with the determination to complete the glorious cause of building a peaceful, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, and thus to contribute to the struggle of the people around the world for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The sentiments linking Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia having been built at the price of blood in a protracted fight against the common enemy, for the independence and freedom of each country, our people are resolved to wholeheartedly support the just cause of the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam sincerely thanks the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, of peace- and justice-loving countries, the international democratic organizations, the world's peoples, and the progressive American people for the wholehearted support they have always extended to the Vietnamese people's patriotic resistance war against US aggression, and for their active struggle to contribute to bring about the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam calls on all brothers and friends in the five continents to extend continued strong support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's just cause, and to resolutely struggle to compel the US government and the Saigon administration to strictly respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, with a view to ensuring a stable peace in Viet Nam, and contributing to the maintenance of lasting peace in Indochina, Asia, and the world.

Hanoi, March 30, 1973

editorial

A new conjuncture

THE moment of truth has come. On March 29, at 5:30 p.m. Group Captain David Odell, the last US military, boarded his plane for home. Earlier, in a short and quiet ceremony, General Weyand and Ambassador Bunker lowered the US-Saigon Command flag at Tan Son Nhut airport. Since that very minute, South Viet Nam has been rid of all US aggressors and the great-scale military US involvement has ended after 18 years and 8 months beginning from July 1954.

For the first time in 115 years, our land is free of all invaders. A new stage has been ushered in, a new and resplendent landmark has been planted on the revolutionary odyssey of our people.

In 1859, the French colonialists started their conquest of our country with an assault on Da Nang. It took them 25 years to impose their rule on our whole land. But for all their military might and the allegiance of a deliquescent native feudal court, our people remained undaunted.

Their 60 years long domination had to deal with incessant uprisings of the patriots which reached the peak with the August General Insurrection, when the French and feudal rule was overthrown, the DRVN founded and a new era of national independence and freedom opened.

A French comeback was eventually staged but met with the grim resistance of an entire people. Again after nearly 9 years of a gruelling confrontation in which many topnotch French generals like Leclerc, Morlière, Valluy, De Lattre de Tassigny, Navarre, Salan, Paul Ely were defeated and 9 billion dollars squandered, colonialist France had to sign the 1954 Geneva Agreements recognizing our country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In 1955, General Paul Ely observed a "farewell" ceremony in Saigon, to terminate France's 96-year old involvement in Viet Nam.

Under the "vacuum-filling" doctrine, the US waded in. Not less than four strategies were put into effect, more than 200 billion dollars spent, an amount of hardware three times that of the Second World War used, the most sophisticated and lethal war engines deployed and the best US captains like Harkins, Taylor, Westmoreland, Abrams and Weyand placed at the command of the Expeditionary Corps. In the end, history repeated itself at Saigon international airport.

March 29, 1973 has gone down in history as the crowning of our people's epic battle against two major imperialisms within less than three decades. Our pride in having seen them pack up is fully justified for the achievements of a small nation like ours are no minor ones and no insignificant contributions to the world national liberation movement. For the US imperialists particularly, the lessons must have been of the bitterest.

But not all our battles have been won. Though thwarted in its design, US imperialism can not change its spots. This has been amply demonstrated by the way the Paris Agreement has been implemented in the last two months.

It has not yet or not fully complied with the Accord's important provisions. And even in what it had to carry out, there was much to complain of.

The cease-fire, the gist of the Agreement, has been done most violence to. In many areas, fighting has not been halted. Continual Saigon incursions, pacification raids and police operations have been mounted. It is obvious that the US is behind all these moves, bent as it is on keeping the conflict in South Viet Nam going on.

It has pulled out its troops but left behind its armaments. It has not only not dismantled its bases but has even brought in 10,000 military personnel under various guises, maintained a Marine company in Saigon, strengthened its embassy staff and widened its network of consulates to be the CP's of the many troops still stationed in Southeast Asia. Its reconnaissance planes have been tresspassing the DRVN airspace and PRG skies.

Moreover, fascist measures have been clamped down on the population in Saigon-controlled areas, where democratic freedoms are non-existent. Tens of thousands of people continue to be penned up in concentration camps. Every facet of the masses' life has been placed under an ominous shadow. The Thieu regime has stubbornly set its face against national concord and reconciliation while ignoring the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.

The US and Saigon administration have not returned to the PRG all the captured military personnel, and any single civilian detainee. They have tried every possible means to re-classify political prisoners as "common law offenders," fake their records or secretly murder or make away with many of them.

As for other provisions, their behaviour is no better. They have only complied with those advantageous to them or which they cannot shirk. Dilatory tactics, incomplete or incorrect implementation of many important clauses of the Agreement have been recorded on their part. All this spells out US intention to maintain neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, use the Saigon rule as an instrument to carry on a limited war and push up their bloody pacification drive. No doubt, the warlike forces in the US are still reluctant to completely end US involvement in Viet Nam.

Such a conjuncture calls for our people's higher vigilance and greater exertions to have all the main stipulations of the Agreement enforced, with our minds set on a lasting peace, complete independence and freedom, national reconciliation and concord and ultimate national reunification.

We are on a vantage ground. Despite difficulties and complications, despite unsatisfactory results of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the last two months' activity which culminated in the completion of US withdrawal from South Viet Nam on March 29 last has given an idea of the extent of our gain.

We have beaten off tens of thousands of attacks of the Saigon troops, and preserved the liberated areas whole. The Thieu men have had to pay a high price for their crimes with more than 35,000 of them wiped out, let alone 45,000 gone over the hill or disbanded. The Saigon rule has been further emasculated and plagued with fresh troubles. The US pull-out has brought a quick change in the balance of forces. Meanwhile the NFL and PRG national concord line has been taking root deeper into the Saigon-occupied areas. It has opened for the unenlightened a unique path to dignity. Those who frantically oppose it seem to be unaware that things are quite different now that the GI's have gone home. The revolutionary tide of the masses will engulf any trigger-happy force. There is no reversing the wheel of history nor thwarting the aspirations of the masses.

The new complexion of the situation is very rosy for the struggle for a stable peace, unqualified independence and democracy in South Viet Nam. If we keep our wits about us and close our ranks, if we make greater efforts, we shall certainly bring our cause to victory,

SOUTH VIET NAM

Statement of RSVN PRG

on implementation of Paris Agreement in the past two months

Two months have passed since the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam entered into force. The most brutal war in history waged by the United States in Viet Nam has been brought to an end. The last units of the 500,000-strong expeditionary army of the United States, who had trampled upon South Viet Nam, sown mournings and sufferings to our people and upset our life in various domains, have withdrawn from South Viet Nam. This is the most glorious victory in the Vietnamese nation's history of struggle against foreign invasion, and a source of joy and pride for every Vietnamese, from the North to the South. This victory is the brilliant outcome of the hard, protracted and heroic fight of the South Vietnamese people and the Vietnamese people as a whole, which has enjoyed warm sympathy and support from the whole progressive mankind. This is an epoch-making victory of the national liberation movement, of the revolutionary forces and all progressive tendencies throughout the world. This victory has ushered in a new stage favorable to the South Vietnamese people in their struggle for peace, independence, neutrality, democracy and national concord, in the advance to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland,

Since the signing of the Peace Agreement, the South Vietnamese people and liberation armed forces, responding to the appeals of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, have scrupulously observed the ceasefire order and strictly implemented all the provisions of the Agreement. In the areas under its control, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam had carried out various policies in the interests of the country and people with a view to speedily stabilizing and step by step improving the people's life, achieving national concord and guaranteeing democratic liberties. In the joy of victory, millions of people from Quang Tri southward to Ca Mau, from the mountains to the lowlands, who, now masters of their own destiny, are united like one man and are enthusiastically rebuilding their home places with the firm resolve to preserve peace and defend the liberated areas.

Meanwhile, the United States and the Saigon administration have unceasingly, systematically and more and more seriously violated many provisions of the Agreement. Under US instigation the Saigon administration has launched tens of thousands of encroachment operations against the areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Every day, the Saigon administration has ordered more than 200 plane sorties to drop bombs and spray toxic chemicals, killing the people and devastating their hamlets and paddy-fields. As a result, the ceasefire has not yet been observed in South Viet Nam. In many places, shooting and bombing have not ended and military operations are raging on. This extremely serious situation directly jeopardizes the maintenance of a lasting peace in South Viet Nam.

In the areas under its control, the Saigon administration, brazenly sabotaging the provisions concerning democratic liberties, has carried out tens of thousands of police and "pacification" operations aimed at arresting and massacring the people and herding them into concentration camps which should have been dismantled. The main democratic liberties namely freedom of movement, freedom of residence and freedom of work, etc. have been repeatedly trampled underfoot. On the contrary, fascist laws have been increased against the people.

At variance with Article 8 (c) of the Agreement and the commitment of the Government of the United States, in the past two months, the Saigon administration has not returned any civilian personnel to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Hundreds of thousands of patriots, peace-loving people and those who refuse to take side with the Saigon administration's dictatorial and bellicose policy continue to be detained and maltreated in the prisons and detention camps across South Viet Nam The Saigon administration has brought to unknown places or secretly disposed of many prisoners and changed dossiers of the military personnel to turn them into "common law prisoners" in a bid not to return them. These criminal acts of the Saigon administration have aroused high indignation among broad public opinion in the world,

At the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties, contrary to the goodwill of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Saigon administration has brazenly styled itself the "only legitimate and legal" government, denied the existence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, denied the role of the third force and refused to discuss the formation of National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord.

As is known to everybody, the Saigon administration is only a product and an instrument of US neo-colonialism, while the RSVN PRG represents the strength of a nation which has persistently fought for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for national liberation and peace in the world. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people. Its influence and prestige are rising ever higher at home and on the international arena. Prompted by the South Vietnamese people's aspiration for peace, independence and democracy, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has readily entered into consultations with the Saigon administration to promptly solve the internal affairs of South Viet Nam in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord,

These extremely serious acts of violation of the Agreement by the Saigon administration are part of a premeditated plan worked out and directed by the United States.

For its part, the United States has brazenly violated the provisions of the Agreement which it is dutybound to carry out. In contravention of Articles 5 and 6 of the Agreement, US troops have left South Viet Nam without taking along their weapons. The US still refuses to dismantle its military bases in South Viet Nam. It is leaving behind over ten thousand military personnel in the guise of civilian advisors and has illegally transferred weapons, ammunition and war means into South Viet Nam. Obviously, the United States still continues its military involvement and intervention of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam in the hope of beefing up the Saigon administration and making of it an instrument to materialize neo-colonialism of the US in South Viet Nam.

The United States has prolonged the removal of the mines it had dropped into the territorial waters, waterways and rivers of North Viet Nam, thus actually dragging on its blockade of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. It has even threatened to use force to oppose the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is an extremely serious violation of the Paris Agreement and an insolent challenge to the people the world over.

Meanwhile, the United States has increased the use of B.52s to repeatedly bomb Cambodia and has intensified the bombing of Laos.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam sternly denounces the abovementioned schemes and acts of the US and the Saigon administration, resolutely demands that the US government withdraw completely its military personnel from South Viet Nam, and the illegal shipment of arms, ammunition and other war means to South Viet Nam, completely end its military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam and seriously carry out the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The Saigon administration must fully carry out its commitments, respect the ceasefire, end immediately all nibbling operations and withdraw its troops to the areas it occupied before January 28, 1973. It must end all acts of terror and concentration of people, annul all fascist laws, guarantee democratic liberties, first of all the freedom of movement, the freedom of return to one's native villages and earn one's living, the freedom of the press..., return all the captured and detained civilian personnel and seriously consult with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to rapidly solve the internal affairs of South Viet Nam.

Fully supporting the March 30, 1973 Statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam once again reaffirms its unswerving stand to respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. If the Saigon administration continues its acts of violence to encroach on the liberated zone and massacre the people, the South Viet Nam people and People's Liberation Armed Forces will deal it due punishing blows.

Dear countrymen in the South,

Dear cadres and combatants of the PLAF in the South,

Our people's arduous struggle to achieve the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has won a resounding success. The US expeditionary corps, the mainstay of the warlike and reactionary forces in South Viet Nam, has withdrawn from our country. Our posture is strong, our force abundant, we possess the solid political and juridical basis of the Paris Agreement and the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam, the whole mankind is on our people's side. Giving full play to the indomitable tradition of the *Brass Wall of the Fatherland*, let the population and army of South Viet Nam increase their union with all their countrymen throughout the country, enhance their vigilance, overcome all difficulties and hardships, struggle firmly to foil all schemes and acts of violation of the Agreement by the US government and Saigon administration, preserve peace, achieve democratic freedoms and national concord and build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam proceeding toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

Political and social organizations, religious communities, democratic personalities inside and outside the country,

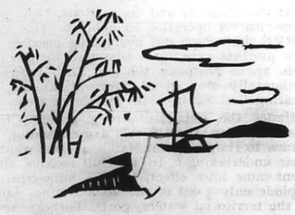
The RSVN PRG once again declares to hail, and stand ready to cooperate with, any organizations or individuals regardless of their political opinion, their faith and their past in order to struggle for the serious implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the achievement of the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese.

Soldiers, officers, personnel and functionaries of the Saigon administration,

Peace, democracy and national concord are the most ardent and pressing aspirations of our countrymen in South Viet Nam, and also your own legitimate ones. To maintain peace, realize democracy and national concord is to love ones homeland. Observe correctly the ceasefire and respect the other clauses of the Agreement, support actively the just struggle of the population, oppose strongly the order to carry out nibbling operations and terrorize your countrymen.

The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam are resolved to strengthen the block of solidarity of Viet Nam-Cambodia-Laos which has been tempered in the fight and wholeheartedly support the Cambodian and Lao peoples in their just cause till total victory. The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam call on the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, non-aligned countries, peace- and justice-loving nations, international democratic organizations, the world peoples and all progressive Americans to give still stronger support to the just cause of the South Vietnamese people and resolutely demand that the US government and the Saigon administration seriously implement the Paris Agreement to ensure a lasting peace in Viet Nam, thus contributing to the guarantee of peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The South Vietnamese people's just cause will win!



Decorations for outstanding units and individuals in anti-US resistance

IN furtherance of the March 23, 1973 decision of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee, President Ton Duc Thang has signed an order conferring 473 resistance and exploit orders of various categories on 71 localities, 239 units, and 109 individuals (among whom 35 are posthumously awarded). The recipients belong to various branches of the national economy and cultural, social and public security services who had recorded outstanding achievements in fighting, serving the fight, ensuring communications and transport and public security during the second US war of destruction against North Viet Nam. The awarded localities included one city (Nam Dinh), 7 provincial towns, town districts and townships and 33 villages. The other recipients include:

— 126 units and 52 individuals of the communications and transport service.

— 28 units and 2 individuals of the post, information and cultural services including the collective of correspondents and editors of the *Viet Nam News Agency* who won a resistance order, first class.

— 19 units and 2 individuals of the medical service and the Red Cross Society.

— 11 units and 10 individuals of the public security service, and

— 47 units and one individual of the agricultural, sylviculture and aquatic products branch. Among this number are 27 agricultural co-operatives and 5 sea fishing co-operatives.

No US shirking of its mine-clearing obligations !

The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and its Protocol concerning the removal, permanent deactivation, or destruction of mines in the territorial waters, ports, harbors and waterways of the DRVN have clearly stipulated that "the United States shall clear all the mines it has placed in the territorial waters, ports, harbors, and waterways of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam", and that "the mine-clearing operation shall begin at twenty four hundred (24.00) hours GMT on January 27, 1973".

However only 9 days later, that is on February 5, 1973, did the US military delegation send its representatives to discuss ways and means to enforce the said provisions.

The two sides held 28 sessions at the level of heads of delegation and 17 sessions at that of experts, totalling 67 hours. In those meetings, the US side raised all kinds of difficulties not to honour its commitments. It put forth a mine-clearing program of 180 days — 40 days for the Haiphong area alone — and added that this period might even be prolonged if hitches were to occur. It continually changed its mind and reconsidered its opinion. It even went the length of declaring that the main responsibility for the removal of mines rested with the DRVN side, while US main obligation was only to supply technical means, and even this job it did not adequately do and namely did not deliver enough equipment for the localization of the mines after their deactivation. Only 100 magnetic tubes were mentioned in the list of things to be handed gradually to the DRVN side, but as far as drawing force is concerned, buffalo was proposed by the US side instead of helicopters and motor-launches.

So from the very beginning, US intention to dodge its responsibility and drag out the task to be done has been transparent.

The DRVN has provided all facilities for the US representatives to fulfill it like installation of machines, transports, accomodations, etc. — but the US military delegation headed by Rear-Admiral McCawley spent all their time in futile discussions. Actual mine-clearing was the least of their concerns. Now they said there were "technical difficulties," now they alleged that the weather was too bad.

At the Feb. 24 and 25 sessions, they pledged to start the mine-clearing operation on Feb. 26. This was agreed to by the DRVN side which did everything possible to facilitate it. But new pretexts were again advanced by them on Feb. 26, then on Feb. 27, to postpone the job. Then suddenly on Feb. 28, they unilaterally stopped all preparations and ordered their mine-clearing fleet off from the Haiphong area.

Under the impact of strong protests from the DRVN and world opinion, the US military delegation and its fleet had to return to Haiphong on March 4. But what was the result of their undertaking ? In two full months since the Paris Agreement came into effect, the US mine-clearing fleet managed to explode only 3 out of the 20,000 mines laid by the Americans in the territorial waters, ports, harbors and waterways of the DRVN.

They invoked difficulties and shortage of means. They even bluntly declared that they were used to planting mines, not to removing them, and that the mine-clearing technique was still under study by US scientists etc.

GENERAL TRAN VAN TRA VISITS NORTH VIET NAM

On March 31, General Tran Van Tra, Head of the RSVN PRG military delegation, arrived at Ha Noi on a visit to North Viet Nam after completing his work in the Four-Party Joint Military Commission.

On April 1, Gen. Tran Van Tra called on the DRVN National Defence Ministry. He was accompainied by Nguyen Van Tien, Head of the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN.

Gen. Tran Van Tra was warmly received by General Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of the DRVN National Defence. General Vo Nguyen Giap pointed out that the US is still continuing its military involvement under many new forms in South Viet Nam. Thus the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has not yet been strictly and scrupulously implemented. The US and Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for all the consequences of their serious acts of violation.

General Tran Van Tra said: "The acts of sabotaging the Agreement by the US and the Saigon administration have rendered the situation in South Viet Nam very tense and dangerous. The revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people remains very arduous, fierce and complicated. But we are firmly convinced that the South Vietnamese people's revolution will certainly win final victory."

General Tran Van Tra, also called on the RSVN Special Representation in the DRVN.

He was accompanied by General Le Quang Hoa, Head of the DRVN Military Delegation to the Central Four-Party JMC, and Colonel Do Trinh, Director of the Bureau of the DRVN Defence Ministry.

Nguyen Van Tien, Head of the RSVN, warmly received and cordially talked with Gen. Tran Van Tra and those who accompanied him.

In Hanoi Gia Lam airport PRG General Tran Van Tra meeting again his northern brothers on March 30, 1973

DRVN delegation JMC returns to Hanoi

ON March 31, the DRVN Military Delegation under Major-general Le Quang Hoa returned to Hanoi from Saigon after accomplishing its mission in the Central Four-Party JMC.

On April 2, General Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of National Defence, received the delegation.

On behalf of the Defence Ministry, General Vo Nguyen Giap warmly welcomed General Le Quang Hoa and all the officers and men of the delegation.

Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap said: "Strictly abiding by the instruction of the Party Central Committee and the Government, you have upheld the just stand and goodwill of our people and closely cooperated with the PRG military delegation and the ICCS in a persistent struggle for the application of the Agreement. As a result, a part of the Agreement has been carried out, and that is an initial victory of our people's struggle for the implementation of the Agreement. That victory will enable our people to struggle for the strict implementation of all the provisions of the Agreement for the sake of the inviolable fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of our countrymen in the South."

After denouncing the deliberate violations of the most important and urgent provisions of the Agreement by the US and the Saigon administration, General Vo Nguyen Giap stressed: "Our people's struggle is going on, complicated and arduous, because the war-like and fascist reactionary forces in the Saigon administration, instrument of US neo-colonialism, are still deliberately undermining the Agreement and sabotaging peace and national concord in an effort to maintain US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and perpetuate the division of Viet Nam."

He voiced the North Vietnamese people's determination to wholeheartedly support the just and infallibly victorious struggle of their countrymen in the South for peace, independence, democracy, national concord and peaceful reunification of the country.

"Final victory will belong to the heroic Vietnamese people," Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap stressed.

On behalf of the delegation, General Le Quang Hoa expressed his happiness to report to the Defence Ministry the fulfilment of the tasks assigned by the VNWP Central Committee and the Government over the past two months.

In the same day, General Le Quang Hoa and his delegation have been received by Prime Minister Pham Van Dong. After hearing the report made by General Le Quang Hoa on the delegation's activities, Prime Minister Pham Van Dong congratulated all the members of the delegation for having fulfilled excellently their mission entrusted by the Party and Government.

Communications and transport service holds traditional festival

The Communications and Transport Service of North Viet Nam has organized its yearly "Traditional Festival of Production and Fighting" (March 25).

Hero units, heroes and heroines, and nearly 1,000 model workers of the service participated in the festival.

In 1972, the US launched the most ferocious war of destruction against North Viet Nam, particularly against communications and transport.

Many examples of revolutionary heroism have emerged, represented by 19 hero units, 34 heroes and heroines and 44,000 front-rank units and individuals honoured "Valiant Combatants on the Communication and Transport Front against the US aggressors."

The Festival was honoured by the presence of General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and Vice-Premier of the Government.

On behalf of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC and the Government, General Vo Nguyen Giap warmly hailed the communications and transport service for its very big victories. He said:

"The great victory of the resistance against the US aggression for national salvation ushered in a new stage of the Vietnamese revolution in the whole country, the stage of stepped-up socialist construction in North Viet Nam and of struggle to preserve a lasting peace, complete independence and democracy in South Viet Nam, and ultimately achieve the reunification of the country.

First of all, we must quickly restore communications and transport, then switch onto building the material and technical foundation to develop communications and transport on a large scale and at a quick tempo. It is necessary to quickly expand communications and transport at the same time in the delta, mid-land and mountainous regions especially in the newly-built economic areas."

Phan Trong Tue, Minister of Communications and Transport, then presented to the units and individuals with outstanding achievements last year with 180 "resistance and exploit orders" awarded by the DRVN National Assembly and Government.

Brilliant success of the special session of WFTU Bureau on Viet Nam

THE Special Session of the Bureau of the World Federation of Trade Union on Viet Nam opened in Hanoi, the DRVN's capital, at 9:00 a.m., March 29.

The session was attended by Enrique Pastorino, President, Pierre Gensous, General Secretary, and other members of the WFTU Bureau.

Also present were the representatives of the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions, and the representatives from Laos and Cambodia.

An appeal was made in a resolution adopted at the closing session of the WFTUB ureau, after two days of meeting.

The resolution pointed out that "the Special Session of the Bureau of the WFTU, in the new conditions for the struggle, concentrated the greater part of its attention to an examination and discussion of the tasks posed currently in the sphere of international solidarity with the workers and people of Viet Nam, so as to compel American imperialism and the Saigon administration to respect and strictly apply the Paris Agreement, and launch a great world campaign of aid for the reconstruction of Viet Nam devastated by the war."

It appreciated that the signing of the Paris Agreement is "a great victory for the Vietnamese people and peoples of the countries of Indochina, united as one and determined to fight against the common enemy. This is also a victory for the socialist countries, of the international working class, the peace-, freedom- and justice-loving countries, including the progressive forces of the United States who have given their help and manifested their backing and support for the just struggle of the Vietnamese people."

The resolution continued :

"The Bureau takes note that despite the signing of the Agreement and the solemn commitment that this entails, the systematic serious violations by the Saigon administration and the United States are continuing.

In Laos, where the victory of the Lao people resulted in the signing of an agreement on the restoration of peace and national concord, similar violations have occurred.

In Cambodia, the United States is continuing the bombing and continues to support the dictatorship of Lon Nol and his accomplices.

The WFTU unites in the same spirit of solidarity the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

In the face of these acts endangering peace, which the WFTU strongly condemns, the Bureau appeals to all workers not to relax their activities, but, on the contrary, to intensify them. What this requires is :

— to enforce the respect and strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Agreement on Laos ;

— to bar the way to all manœuvres by imperialism and reaction in South Viet Nam ; to demand the US to end its involvement and withdraw all military personnel in the guise of civilians ;

— to force the Saigon administration to cease all its encroachment and "pacification" operations and immediately release all political prisoners and patriots that it is still holding, and to create favourable conditions for national reconciliation and concord ;

— to support the people of Cambodia who, under the leadership of the FUNK, are struggling for a peaceful, independent, democratic and prosperous Cambodia, with its territorial integrity.

The wounds and damage caused by the war are immense. They impose new sacrifices on the Vietnamese people. Materially it is necessary to continue and extend the aid to the Vietnamese people. The material solidarity must be on a level with the sacrifices accepted by Viet Nam.

In this respect the Bureau underlines the urgency and scale of the needs. This is why it launches a starring call to all workers, to all trade-union organisations, whatever their international affiliation or that they be autonomous, so that each may add its contribution to the building of a peaceful, reunited, independent and prosperous Viet Nam.

Each trade union should decide what to do in the light of the circumstances of the country, but the Bureau calls on all workers to contribute, in the manner decided the most suitable, to a big material solidarity.

The Bureau has also decided to help the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions to build a scientific and technical centre for cadre training in Hanoi as a symbol of the international solidarity of the international working class and the world trade-union movement with the heroic working class of Viet Nam."

★ ★ ★

Here and There

THE PRESS OR THIEU'S PET AVERSION

The men of the media generally do not find favour in the eyes of the Saigon tyrant. It is known that draconian measures have been taken against South Viet Nam press : ban on many issues, censorship, fines, confiscations, closure, suppression, manhandling and imprisonment of journalists etc. For example, the notorious decree-law 07 makes publication of a newspaper liable to a huge deposit of caution money allegedly to be security for eventual fines, which is an institution unknown anywhere in the world.

The strictures have been more particularly tightened since the signing of the Paris Agreement and the installation in Saigon and other places of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission. First it was prohibited to the Saigonese and even foreign reporters to try to speak to DRVN and PRG representatives. Brutalities like confiscation of notebooks, wrecking of photo and cinema cameras, armed threat etc. were inflicted on some foreign correspondents. Under the impact of the concerned people's legitimate protests, some concessions have been snatched since but the Saigonese pressmen are still hamstrung by a host of restrictions.

Why all this enmity for the newsmen ? There is no need to cudgel one's brains for an answer. Those who are in the saddle in Saigon are afraid of the press because they are afraid of the truth. Naturally there are among the press people a few who are sold out to the regime which pampers them of course. But they are the black sheep who do not deserve our attention.

A DENIAL DENIED

AFP correspondent Roland Paringaux is no doubt not of their number. After an interview with 14 South Vietnamese civilian inmates of Con Son prison secretly released by Thieu in Saigon, he wrote a pretty detailed story on the horrible and inhuman regime of the Saigon jails. Though it only gave a partial picture of the facts, it is a brave piece of truthfulness on the part of a foreign journalist fearless of Saigon police.

Having got wind of the article about to be cabled home, the Thieu cops summoned the French man and threatened him with every kind of unpleasantness if he refused to destroy what he had written.

But as a self-respecting member of corporation, Paringaux pooh-poohed the menace. As a result, his stay visa was not extended on March 27, 1973.

The Saigon clique had even the naive idea of denying the French correspondent's account with a so-called International Red Cross piece of evidence said to have been given after its representatives' visit to Con Son detention camps

But on March 22, 1973, the International Red Cross Commission published a communiqué making it abundantly clear that for the last four years, its delegates had not been able to visit once the Con Son civilian detainees.

THE LAST LEAVERS

On March 29, 1973, *Reuter* reported from Saigon, US military role in Viet Nam was officially brought to an end by another 15-minute ceremony for the lowering of the US Command flag at the Tan Son Nhut base. An hour later at 17:30 (Saigon time) the 42 military representing the four US services at the march past boarded a SS—bound jet, at the same time as 2,500 other GI's. And at 5:15 hours GMT ended the operation of the command of the US military aid, set up since February 1962 with as insignia a banner showing a sword cutting into a wall.

So after 11 years, the sword was quietly put back into its sheath while the wall remained proud and whole.

Meanwhile, say the newspapers, at Gia Lam airport, at 3:20 Hanoi time, two US C.141's took off with the 107 US pilots of the last batch of POW's handed over by the DRVN. Gone forever the last witnesses of the never-to-be-forgotten trouncing the USAF had taken in North Viet Nam.

It would be interesting to read the minds of those last leavers. There might be very mixed impressions. But one thing which was clearly unalloyed was the Vietnamese people's joy at saying farewell to them. Their departure called to mind another which had taken place 19 years ago after the famous Dien Bien Phu battle.

HUONG NAM

The two brothers

SITTING on the verandah, Binh gazed at little Minh and little Luong playing in the courtyard He called them in and, opening wide his arms, hugged both of them : they were as like as two peas.

Too interested in their game, the boys soon slipped away.

Since the day before, when he returned home, Binh had not yet spoken to them, he only drew them to him and stroked their heads. He was engrossed in thought for that afternoon—Tet eve — his sister-in-law had told him she had just received a letter from her husband. May be his brother was not coming home !

The sight of the two boys playing recalled to him the days of yore. Only ten years ago, he and his brother had played together like their children now. Could these days pass without leaving some marks in his mind ? Despondent and tired, Binh walked into the house and looked at the altar. It seemed that his father and mother were staring at him asking : "Where is your brother, sonny ?"

Silently he stretched himself on the cold plank bed. His nostrils inflated as he inhaled the smoke of the joss-sticks burning on the altar.

Seeing him dozing, his wife who wanted to ask him to help her take the traditional rice cakes out of the cooking pot, gingerly withdrew, aware that some thought was preying on his mind. She finished the job herself and was eager to share her husband's sorrow.

WITHOUT waiting for his question Can's wife started the conversation as she lay down on the bed : "Binh has come home you know !"

"Has he a pistol on him ?" Can asked.

"How can I know ?"

"Has he called ?"

"What for ?"

"To inquire after me."

"Yes. As far as I know, he longs to see you."

For what purpose ? Many Tets had gone by without the two brothers returning home on the occasion and talking together. May be...

Can's wife was not sure of her own guess.

But to say that her brother-in-law harboured some ill will was preposterous. She had no reason to believe so ; she thought so because she did not know the facts.

"The other day," she said to her husband, "I asked Binh's wife if she had heard from her husband, as Tet was drawing near ; she seemed to be anxious because after Tet would come Father's death anniversary. I told her to let us share the expenses, but she refused."

"She is still the same as when she was young," Can said. When talking about his sister-in-law, his words were not so vague as when referring to his brother.

"Are the two boys playing together ?" he went on.

"They are not like you both," Can's wife said. "When Luong is bullied, Minh comes to his rescue."

Can kept silent. A while later, he asked his wife : "Has Luong shown his cousin how to handle a catapult ?"

This question which seemed to have no connection with what she was thinking embarrassed her ; so she said :

"I don't know, all I know is that a few days ago, they made a hole in the fence separating our gardens to make it quicker for them to run to each other, they say."

Luong was an intelligent brat ; he asked his mother : "What did you build that fence for ? To prevent Minh and Auntie Binh pilfering our fruit ?"

Can's wife was not able to give an answer ; she could not explain to her son the whole business.

Can finished a whole cigarette. The tobacco smoke made his wife cough. As an excuse, he lifted the mosquito-net to drive out the smoke. Her wife lay softly by his side like in the old days of their honeymoon. She remembered that evening at dusk when she stood stunned by her husband's unexpected home coming, later her son stole away to his uncle's house, probably to break the news to Minh.

BINH was lying between his wife and son.

"It seems that he hadn't come home for ages ?" he enquired. "No, he hadn't," replied his wife.

"Tomorrow, send Minh to invite them to come and see us. If we cannot have a Tet dinner together, at least they can lit some joss-sticks for father and mother."

"Why send Minh and not me ? I'd better go myself."

"Please do, but I was afraid you minded it..."

"No, I don't. We do what is right, and do not care about what people may think. If formerly I did not go to their house, it was because I was afraid people might gossip that a Viet Cong's wife in distress had gone to a 'government' soldier's wife for help. But things are quite different now. What do you think about it ?"

"I think it's a good idea."

"This afternoon, when I saw Luong coming and whispering something to Minh, that idea struck me."

"What did our son tell Luong ?"

"He referred to Luong's father as 'my uncle'. But when he asked questions about the spotted fatigues worn by Luong's father, he abstained from using the word 'uncle'. Luong felt hurt, he shook his head".

"Our son is a blunt fellow."

"He is the very spit of his father."

"Not quite so."

And the couple laughed. Since he came home, it was the first time Binh sounded cheerful.

The woman remembered the day when her husband was leaving : he also laughed like that because his wishes were granted, and this was not to comfort her.

CAN made up his mind to pay his brother a visit. He did not dread the encounter. One day or another he had to see him. His wife was happy to see him so stylish in his civvies : but when she saw him slip a pistol inside his shirt, she asked : "Why do you take a gun with you when you go and see brother ?"

Can shrugged his shoulders and said: "One can never tell. It's better to take some precautions, isn't ?"

The two women anxiously waited for the first meeting of their men since years. Would the brothers let bygones be bygones or would they meet only for duty's sake or worse still, would they fight ?

Unlike their mothers who were on tenterhooks, the two boys went to each other's house through the hole in the fence after the first clatters of fire-crackers. Hand in hand they crossed the partition erected against everyone's will since the first gun reports were heard. This fence was not a solid one, yet it divided their grand father's garden.

Binh noticed at once something bulging under his brother's mufti. He suppressed a wrench in his heart. He shook hands with Can ; the handshake was not natural. The two brothers felt as if they were wrapped in some invisible cloth which impeded their free movement. The two women winked at each other. They were aware that their happiness was to be decided at that moment, the very morning of the New Year. The tense silence in the house oppressed them. They were astonished at seeing their men speechless with uneasiness.

Minh held his father's hand and urged : "Let's do the worshipping so that I can go and play with Luong."

Taking advantage of this opportunity, Can's wife said to her sister-in-law : "Tell your man to light some incense sticks. Have you got everything ready ?"

Instead of burning incense, Binh went to his room and came back with a pistol which he drew from his pocket and laid on the table, not paying heed to the women who were about to scream. Binh looked intently at his brother and said in a firm voice :

"I also brought this along, to be safe on the road. Now I don't keep it on me. Do you think, brother, that I may resort to it when I have invited you to come and pray to the souls of father and mother ?"

The two urchins stared admiringly at the firearm. Can gazed at the man who had affectionately addressed him as "brother" ; the tone was stern but not cold. He spoke quickly as if he was afraid that his ideas would slip away.

"Frankly, I don't think ill of you, brother," Can said. "But we need more time to understand each other. Now start the worshipping so that the children may romp about."

Binh heaved a sigh. He stood before his brother and they clasped their hands and bowed down before the altar.

Can's wife whispered into her husband's ear : "Why do you still keep the gun on you ?"

Binh observed a few minutes of silence in memory of those who had given birth to him and his brother ; Minh and Luong mimicked the grown-ups' gestures.

When he raised his head, Binh saw that Can was about to take his pistol out.

He stopped his brother's hand, saying : "No need."

Tears of relief welled in the two women's eyes.

Luong look censoriously at his father. When he saw tears trickling down his brother's cheeks, Binh wanted to pat his shoulders and to utter some words of comfort, but an invisible force had pushed him into his brother's arms when the latter was opening them.

The women mopped their faces. Their happiness shone like the golden apricot blooms.

SON PHONG

Phnom Penh Regime's collapse a certainty

ACCORDING to *AFP* (March 24), "Tension and general insecurity continue prevailing in Phnom Penh and this situation is expected to drag on for months."

In fact, developments in Phnom Penh have not come as a surprise to concerned observers. In face of the ever greater gains of the Khmer people's patriotic war against US aggression and for national salvation, under the able leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Government of National Union of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Phnom Penh ruling circles on the US payroll have shown utmost panic.

The most striking trait of these occurrences has been the powerful growth of the movement of various social sections in the Lon Nol controlled areas against the Phnom Penh regime such as the school strikes and walk-outs of teachers and students in Phnom Penh and Kampot, the stoppages of workers in many factories in Phnom Penh, especially the air bombing of the "Republican Palace" by a patriotic officer of the Lon Nol army just as his cabinet was meeting. The Phnom Penh administration are resorting to desperate fascist measures. On March 15, they issued a decree banning all meetings, demonstrations and work strikes. On March 16, they created the "anti-riot police" allegedly to "preserve and restore order" but in fact to stamp out all opposition. After the bombing of the Republican Palace (March 17), they declared the state of emergency and ordered a curfew throughout the country from 9.00 p.m. to 5 a.m.. Also according to *AFP*, in only a few days, they arrested as many as 600 people including a dozen members of the royal family, three sons of Samdech Penn Nouth, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union many professors, teachers, students and journalists... On March 18, they ordered the closing of all newspapers and magazines throughout the country (except their own paper), thus suppressing freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

The reaction of the Phnom Penh regime has been most frenzied. But how can the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak—Son Ngoc Thanh clique of traitors check the rising widespread protest of people from all walks of life in the areas under their control? Not a day has passed without a mass uprising supported by soldiers of the Phnom Penh army, against the Lon Nol clique, and without punishment of some of their most notorious agents. Grenades continue to explode in Phnom Penh, right in front of the South Korean Embassy... Meanwhile, internal strifes continue to plague Lon Nol's ranks. Sirik Matak has been put under house arrest. The Minister for the Interior, a brother of Lon Nol, is trying to manœuvre out Sosthene Fernandez, General Chief of Staff of the Phnom Penh army. The latter, in return, is pressing for the disbandment of the 15th regiment under the command of Lon Nol's brother. He charged that although this regiment had been seriously depleted by bombat casualties and desertions, its commander continued to receive every month tens of thousands of riels (Cambodian currency) which is supposed to be the pays of non-existent soldiers.

Without any doubt, the US agents in Phnom Penh are in deep waters. Their frantic repression and scramble for power have thrown more and more light on their dictatorial and racist nature and their anti-popular and traitorous regime. They hope to prolong their days by fascist mesures. But the Cambodian people, responding to the appeal of the appeal of the National Front of United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union, are now more resolved than ever to intensify their efforts to overthrow and sweep away the traitors and build a new, really independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous Cambodia with full territorial integrity.

Whatever the US imperialists may do to shore up their moribund henchmen into an instrument of the bankrupt "Khmerization" they can in no way save them from irretrievable collapse.

NHU NAM

Cambodian woman-guerillas : preparations for an attack

in brief

o In his March 27, 1973 report to the 6th session of the National Assembly of the Bulgarian People's Republic, Stanko Todorov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, said: "We share the view of our Vietnamess comrades that the important thing now is to ensure that the Paris Agreement be strictly implemented by all parties and to thwart the reactionary circles' attempts to sabotage it."

o A Viet Nam Week, observed from March 13 to March 25, 1973 under the sponsorship of the Norwegian Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam won the response of broad sections and many organizations of Norwegians. During the week, many meetings were held under the slogans "The United States and the Saigon administration must seriously implement the Peace Agreement," "The Saigon administration must immediately set free the political prisoners" and "we urge recognition of the PRG."

According to first reports, nearly ten rallies were convened in the western part of Norway alone. Aside from money collections at public places, many Norwegians took an active part in the distribution and dissemination of documents, newspapers and other writings about the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. Many artistes participated in the week with performances of Vietnamese songs, declamation of poems and presentation of their new works praising the struggle of the Vietnamese people and condemning the violations of the Paris Agreement by the United States and Saigon. In Saltdal, many women displayed at meetings flags of the National Front for Liberation of South Viet Nam sewn by themselves.

o In her speech at the 8th Congress of the Spanish Communist Party, the President of the Party, Dolores Ibabury declared: "With their heroic resistance against US imperialiam, the Vietnamese comrades today are in the van of the drive for peace and freedom of the nations."

o On March 26, 1973, in Stockholm, Hans Franck, lawyer and Secretary General of the International Commission of Inquiry into war Crimes in Viet Nam, denounced the new acts of repression of the Saigon administration against South Vietnamese. He said massive arrests were continuing and there had been many cases of summary execution of detainees in South Viet Nam prisons.

He also made known that since November 1972, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration had arrested about 40,000 people and almost one million people were being held in prisons across South Viet Nam.

o On March 28, in Hensinki the world Peace Council issued a strong protest against the US supply of arms to the Saigon administration in blatant violation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The statement said: "The Saigon administration is still keeping tens of thousands of South Vietnamese patriots in its prisons. It is also stepping up actions against the liberation forces in South Viet Nam."

o On the evening of March 26, more than 1,200 young men and women in Havana staged a meeting in solidarity with their Vietnamese counterparts. In his speech at the meeting, Ramon Ajon, member of the Central Committee of the Young Communists League of Cuba, denounced the aggression and other savage crimes of the United States against the people in both South and North Viet Nam: "We severely and vigorously denounce the US imperialists' continuing its efforts to maintain neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, lending a hand to and prodding the Thieu client administration to continue undermining the implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. We firmly insist that the US and the Saigon administration scrupulously comply with this accord."

o On March 28, members of the Women Strike for Peace in the United States held a parade in front of the State Department and published a declaration denouncing the US helping the Saigon administration repress the patriots under detention and all members of the opposition who refuse to co-operate with it.

"In contravention of the Paris Agreement" the statement pointed out, "civilian prisoners are being tortured, left to starve, classified as common-law prisoners and taken to unknown destinations."

o A conference to co-ordinate actions to promote the mass movement in Japan for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam by the United States and the Saigon administration, convened on March 24 in Tokyo and attended by 156 representatives of 83 organizations in Japan including the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the National Council of Japanese Trade Unions (SOHYO) unanimously approved an appeal to the Japanese people to step up the common struggle aimed at realizing the tasks laid down by the Conference.

In this document, the Conference strongly denounced the US big stick policy and scheme to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam, describing this as a flagrant breach of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The appeal also exposed the Tanaka administration's active help to the US to carry out the scheme.

in brief

World opinion scores

ALL through the past two months since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the Viet Nam issue has been the focus of widespread attention. Progressives of the world continue to express appreciation of this great victory of the Vietnamese people, and at the same time closely follow the situation in Viet Nam and take timely actions to prevail on the parties concerned to strictly implement all provisions of the Agreement.

On the whole, the contrast between the two sides' attitudes has been remarkable. On the one hand, the world public has warmly welcomed the serious and good will attitude of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the DRVN Government in the implementation of the Agreement. On the other hand, it has been highly critical of US-Saigon systematic and deliberate violations of the Agreement.

Revolutionary vigilance

Such an unquestionably unbiased and impartial view of the situation in Viet Nam is an indication of the revolutionary vigilance of anyone concerned with the future of mankind.

The resolution of the British Peace Movement on February 25 said: "While greeting the great victory of the Vietnamese people the British Peace Movement is aware that the United States has not abandoned its wicked policy in Southeast Asia and that it would seek every way to destroy what has been agreed upon at the conference table."

Almost one month earlier, on February 31, 1973, the Standing Committee of the Canadian Communist Party declared: "US imperialism has been forced to step back and comply with the new situation, but the United States and its henchmen in Saigon are still doing everything possible to undermine the Agreement... The struggle in South Viet Nam will certainly be a bitter one in the days to come... The open aggression of US imperialism has ended but its camouflaged aggression will go on. With its ground and air forces stationed in Thailand, and its navy poised nearby, it is seeking every way to maintain its puppets in Saigon and prevent the implementation of the Agreement."

The conference of the Presidium of the World Peace Council held in Cairo on February 13 and 14, 1973, issued an Appeal on Viet Nam which said among other things: "The world peoples should enhance their vigilance because imperialism is very stubborn and perfidious. This has been demonstrated in Viet Nam and many other places. Our important task at present is to keep up our pressure on the United States and the Saigon administration to strictly implement the Agreement signed."

One month after the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam came into force, President Salem Rabai of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen commented: "I am closely following the implementation of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam. Without any doubt, the US and the Saigon administration are breaking it in a serious and systematic manner. These acts of violation have clearly shown their lack of good faith. We know very well that the US imperialists are leaving no stone unturned to realize their dark scheme before they are forced to quit South Viet Nam. Therefore, they are doing everything possible to undermine peace and violate the Agreement."

On March 20, 1973, in his report on the activities of the Revolutionary Government of Hungary to the National Assembly, dealing with the world situation, Chairman Jeno Foch gave this warning: "A cease-fire does not yet mean a stable peace. Let us never forget that the Saigon ruling circles have been forced to sign the cease-fire agreement and they have done so only after a long procrastination. Neither should we forget that their troops continue to violate the Agreement. We must carry on a firm and thorough-going battle to get the provisions of the agreements implemented."

The struggle is going on in all continents

From all parts of the world, in the Soviet Union, China, Cuba, Korea, the German Democratic Republic, France, Britain, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Syria, Iraq, Democratic Yemen, Japan, India, Sri Lanka... people continue their strong protest against US-Saigon systematic violations of the Paris Agreement, especially as regards the cease-fire, troop withdrawals and return of captured military and civilian personnel. Universal feeling is running high against Saigon's tens of thousands of land-grabbing operations mounted on the areas under the PRG control, hindrances to the functioning of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the International Commission of Supervision and Control and absurd proposals aimed at stalling the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties. There have been particularly violent criticisms from many State leaders including the First Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Foreign Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the Syrian Prime Minister, Vice-Premier Pak Song Chun of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Vice-Chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers, Polish Vice-Premier M. Jagielski, the Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen...

Many international organizations including the World Peace Council, the International Federation of Democratic Lawyers, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students, the Women's International Democratic Federation, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization and many political parties and mass organizations in various countries, have also issued strong condemnations. The progressive press in the world has also done its active share in this drive.

In the United States itself, a demonstration took place in front of the White House on February 24 under the slogan "Withdraw from Viet Nam now" and "End our Support to Thieu". On March 28, the deadline of the two-month period for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, many Americans paraded in front of the State Department to protest the US government's continued support and assistance to the Saigon regime.

In Japan and France, various mass organizations have organized weeks or days of action aimed at mobilizing broad sections of the peoples into the movement for US and Saigon scrupulous implementation of the Paris Agreement.

In Japan in particulier, a vigorous drive is surging against the flagrant violations of the Paris Agreement by the United States by shipping US armaments to South Viet Nam from US bases in Japan. In Britain, the vigils (from midday to 1 p.m.) in front of the US Embassy which began in the days of the US war escalation in Viet Nam are going on, this time to protest the infringements of the Paris Agreement by the US and the Saigon administration.

Slanders and intimidations rejected

The world public has also rejected out of hand the preposterous charges of the US and Saigon. The "People's Youth," central organ of the Dimitrov Young Communist League in Bulgaria on February 11 wrote: "Nobody can give credence to Thieu's allegation that the agreement is being violated by the patriots. His unfounded charges against the patriotic forces in South Viet Nam are part and parcel of his campaign of political provocation and sabotage. These are only part of a broader demagogic move which Thieu is undertaking. However, they are no surprise for the simple reason that Thieu is only staging the same old farce with himself as the main character, a role which he has for many years now been playing on the political stage under the manipulations of those from the other side of the Pacific."

On the unveiled threats uttered by President Nixon at his press conference on March 15, the magazine *Bihemia* of Cuba commented on March 23: "The most recent threats of US President Nixon have finally shed full light on a whole process of violations, provocations, calumny and sabotage which began at the same time as the coming into force of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. Through the process of these abject actions which the world has witnessed Washington has been trying to set on foot a campaign of distortion through the naive method of shifting on the patriots in South Viet Nam and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam the blame for all these violations and the non-implementation of the Agreement."

The paper *Renaissance* in Syria asserted on March 16: «With all the arrogance of a thief crying stop thief, he (Nixon) has done a very strange and paradoxical thing. The whole world is aware that it is the US and the Saigon administration and nobody else who are endeavouring to undermine, and to prevent the implementation of the Peace Agreement on Viet Nam.

They are bringing en masse US weapons and military equipment to Saigon from Okinawa base. Nguyen Van Thieu continues to put a spamer in the wheel of the International Commission and has committed tens of violations of the agreement in the liberated areas, chiefly in the heavily populated areas.

The whole world realizes that Nixon is trying to pass the buck to Hanoi and wash off his hands.

If the peace agreement has crowned the courageous fight of the Vietnamese people, it has lowered the profile of the US. It is exactly for this reason that the Nixon government is seizing every opportunity to sap. This has come as no surprise."

DINH BA

FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH VISITS IRAQ

At the invitation of Mr Murtadha Saeed Abdul Baqi, member of the National Revolutionary Command Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic for Iraq, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam headed a delegation on an official visite to the Republic of Iraq from March 17 to 21, 1973.

During her stay, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh was received by President Ahmed Hassan Albakr. She also visited Mr Shebli Alaysami, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Baath Socialist Renaissance Party, and Murtadha Saeed Abdul Baqi, member of the National Revolutionary Command Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. She visited historical Babylon, and attended and addressed a welcome meeting organized in Bagdad by the Arab Baath Socialist Renaissance Party.

Official talks were held between the delegation of South Viet Nam led by Madame Binh and the delegation of Iraq under Mr Murtadha Saeed Abdul Baqi, member of the National Revolutionary Command Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Iraq. The two Ministers signed a joint communiqué.

It said: "The Iraqi side approves and supports the Viet Nam Peace Agreement and welcomes the position of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people which has been strictly abiding by and implementing the Agreement already signed.

The Iraqi side strongly denounces the violations of the US and Saigon administrations and emphasizes the necessity to observe all provisions of the Agreement. Continuing its unfailing political, moral and material support to the South Vietnamese people, the Iraqi Government will do its utmost to help the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam heal her wounds of war and national reconstruction.

The South Vietnamese side highly admires the militant anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist tradition of the Iraqi people. The South Vietnamese side hails with joy the efforts of the Arab Baath Socialist Renaissance Party and the other progressive forces in Iraq towards the formation of a national united front.

The South Vietnamese side highly values the measures which led to the achievements of the Iraqi people under the leadership of President Ahmed Hassan Albakr regarding the control of their natural resources and the direct exploitation of petroleum. It also holds that the nationalization will contribute to the consolidation of Iraqi economic independence and represents and active effort made by the Iraqi Government to develop national economy. It warmly welcomes these great achievements of the Iraqi people and wish them many more and bigger successes."

In connection with the situation of the Arab countries, the two sides strongly condemn the aggression of the US-backed Israeli expansionists against the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples. They expose all schemes to stamp out the Palestine resistance movement and voice full support to the Palestinian people's legitimate liberation struggle."

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION